

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON ALUMINUM REPORTS

REF: STATE 182090

1. THE FOLLOWING ARE PROPOSED REVISIONS TO ALUMINUM
WORKING PARTY REPORT ON SUPPLY IN ADDITION THOSE SUGGESTED
REFTEL.

2. DSTI/IND/AL/75.9 - RAW MATERIALS SUPPLY (BAUXITE)

PAGE 2, SECOND PAR. AND SECTION 2 (ESTIMATED BAUXITE
RESERVES IN THE WESTERN WORLD) -- RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING
REVISION TO REPLACE 2ND PAR. AND TABLE:

"WORLD BAUXITE RESERVES (MEASURED, INDICATED, INFERRED
AND RECOVERABLE UNDER PRESENT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS) WERE
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ESTIMATED IN 1965 TO TOTAL 5.8 BILLION TONS WITH ADDITIONAL

POTENTIAL RESOURCES (INCLUDES SUBECONOMIC AND UNPROVEN) OF 9.6 BILLION TONS; IN 1974, THIS ESTIMATE WAS CONSERVATIVELY REVISED TO 15.5 BILLION TONS OF RESERVES PLUS AN ADDITIONAL 15 BILLION TONS OF RESOURCES. THESE INCREASES ARE DUE TO VERY LARGE DEPOSITS CONTINUOUSLY BEING DISCOVERED AND THE USAGE OF TRIHYDRATE BAUXITE CONTAINING UNDER 35 PERCENT AL₂O₃ NOW BEING COMMERCIALY VIABLE. MORE INCREASES

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CAN BE EXPECTED WITH DISCOVERIES OF NEW FIELDS BY IMPROVED ANALYTICAL TOOLS SUCH AS THE BOREHOLE NEUTRON ACTIVATION PROBE AND AS NEW TECHNOLOGY FACILITATES EXPLOITATION. LACK OF RELIABLE DATA PRECLUDES ACCURATE ESTIMATING OF THE SIZE OF POTENTIAL NON-BAUXITIC ALUMINUM BEARING ORES BUT THE RATIO POTENTIAL APPEARS TO BE EXTREMELY HIGH -- PERHAPS 3,000 TIMES THE CURRENT RESERVES RESULTING IN VIRTUALLY INEXHAUSTIBLE HYPOTHETICAL RESOURCES OF ALUMINUM OTHER THAN BAUXITE.

APPROXIMATELY ONE-THIRD OF THE CURRENT PROVEN RESERVES ARE LOCATED IN AUSTRALIA, ANOTHER 30 PERCENT IN AFRICA, ABOUT 25 PERCENT IN LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, UNDER 10 PERCENT IN EUROPE AND MINIMAL AMOUNTS IN ASIA AND NORTH AMERICA."

PAGE 3, TABLE AT TOP OF PAGE - CORRECT KWINANA, AUSTRALIA AL₂O₃ CONTENT FROM 27/29 PERCENT TO 32 PERCENT.

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PAGES 12-14, - THE FOLLOWING IS SUGGESTED INSTEAD OF PRESENT CAPTION FOR "B", AND SECTIONS 1 AND 1.1 THEREUNDER: (DISPLACING ALL OF PAGES 12 AND 13 AND HALF OF PAGE 14.

"B - CHANGING RAW MATERIAL SUPPLY CONDITIONS IN THE ALUMINUM INDUSTRY"

"RAW MATERIAL SUPPLY CONDITIONS CAN AND DO CHANGE SIGNIFICANTLY FOR THE ALUMINUM INDUSTRY, BUT ONLY IN AN ECONOMIC SENSE, NOT GEOLOGICALLY. AS INDICATED AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS CHAPTER, ALUMINUM IS THE 'MOST PLentiful METAL' IN THE EARTH'S CRUST. THAT GEOLOGICAL FACT UNCLASSIFIED

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IS NOT SUBJECT TO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE DURING THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, EVEN IF THE GROWTH OF ALUMINUM CONSUMPTION SURPASSES THE MOST OPTIMISTIC EXPECTATIONS.

CHANGES IN THE ECONOMICS OF RAW MATERIAL SUPPLY-STEM PRIMARILY FROM CHANGES IN THE PRICE OR COST OF BAUXITE. THUS THE SHARP RISE IN SUCH PRICES SINCE EARLY 1974 INTENSIFIES AND ACCELERATES THE DEVELOPEMENT OF LESS

COSTLY BAUXITE SUPPLIES AND OF TECHNOLOGY FOR THE COM-
MERCIAL USE OF NON-BAUXITIC ALUMINUM - CONTAINING
MINERALS WHICH ARE EXTREMELY PLENTIFIUL IN OECD
COUNTRIES."

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